

# Raising Public Awareness of Nuclear Waste Management by Active Information – a Field Report

Julia Mareike Neles – Stefan Alt – Beate Kallenbach-Herbert

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# Active Information – a Field Report

## Background

- The German **Repository Site Selection Act** has come into force in May 2017
- Official start of the site selection process: September 5th, 2017
- But the struggle for the procedure and the importance of public participation is much older (e.g. AkEnd process: 2002).
- With the first version of Site Selection Act from 2013 a broad public participation has been implemented - and confirmed later on:

*“The participation of the public in accordance with clearly defined rules and rights is required to generate trust in the procedure and to take account of as many perspectives as possible in the search for the site with the best-possible safety”*

German Commission on the Storage of High-Level Radioactive Waste, Summary 2016

# Active Information – a Field Report

## Background: Information Measures

- Participation ...
  - cannot be taken for granted.
  - requires active support.
- Basis is information:
  - early in process,
  - reachable all over the country
  - understandable across generations.

Since 2013 the Öko-Institut offers an information package comprising measures for different target groups of the general public:

- Lecture evening with discussion hosted from different institutions for adult education
- Teaching material for young people

# Active Information – a Field Report

## Information Measures: Lecture Evening with Discussion

- a free offer,
- takes place in the rooms of the hosting institution,
- 1.5 to 2 hours talk including discussion,
- for all interested people - prior knowledge is not necessary!
- Content: background information about radioactive waste management, disposal, site selection but also current developments / events,
- extended time for questions, discussion, ...

Announcement and advertising are conducted by the hosts (press releases, posters, event program,...)



# Active Information – a Field Report

## Information Measures: Lecture Evening with Discussion

### Lessons learned (1): General

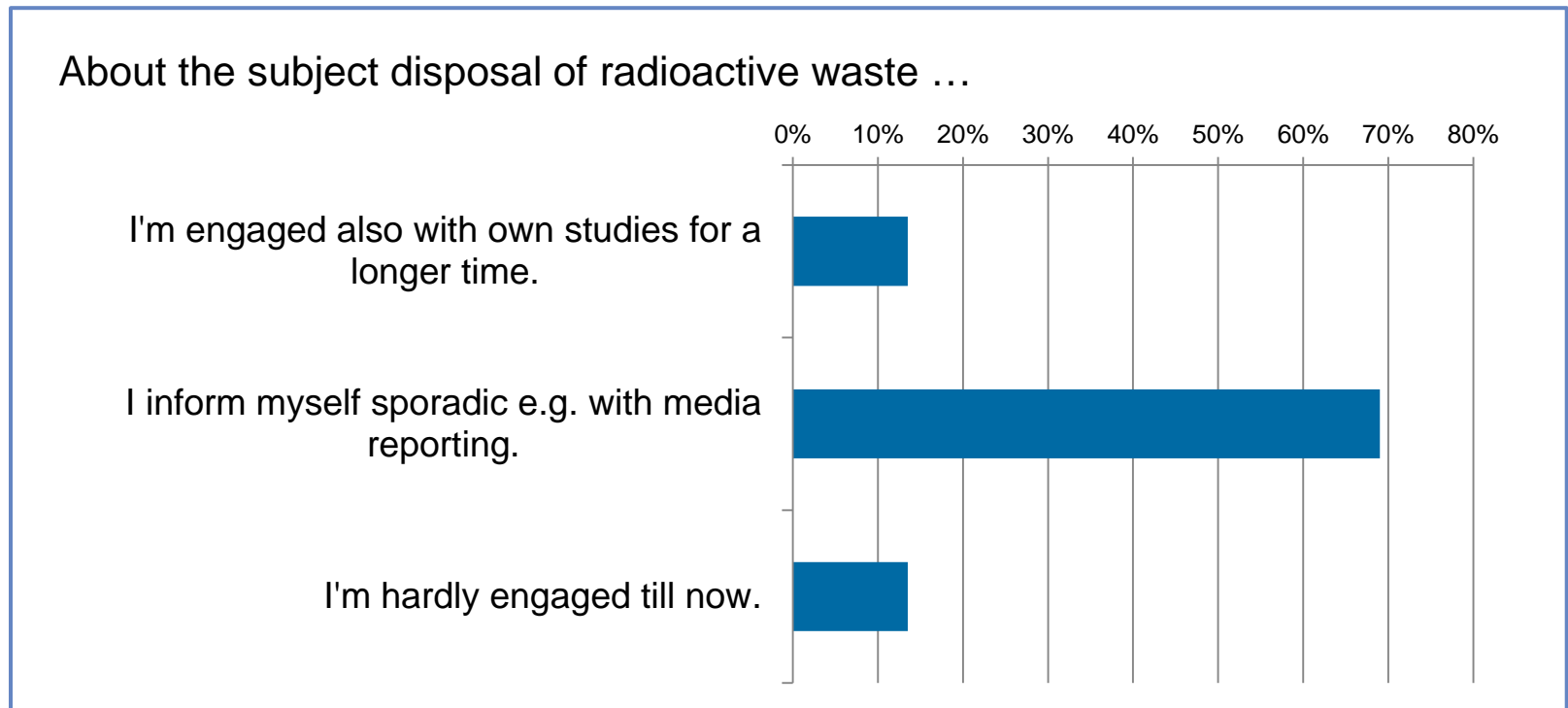
- 13 lectures in different contexts (institutions for adult education, universities, professional associations, a political foundation, a film festival and a theme night in a school),
- between 7 and 120 visitors per lecture
- between 15 and 70+ years old
- between only male visitors and mixed - never only female visitors
- always lively debates, more intense at the smaller events

Our **Feed back forms** gave some more information (Response: 74 filled forms from 6 lectures) 

# Active Information – a Field Report

## Information Measures: Lecture Evening with Discussion

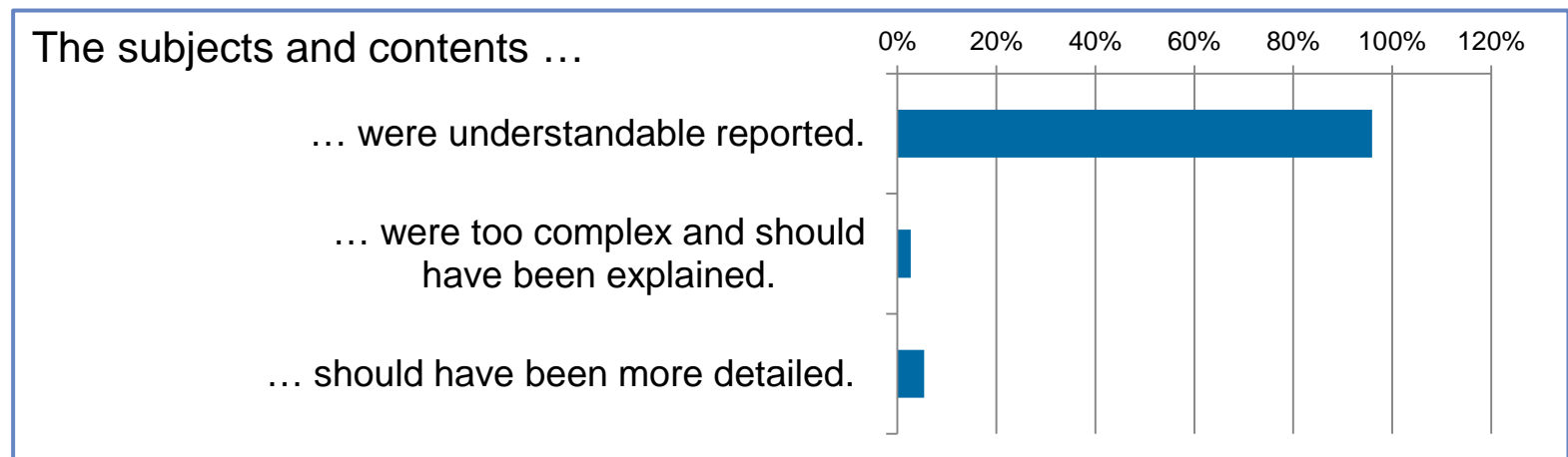
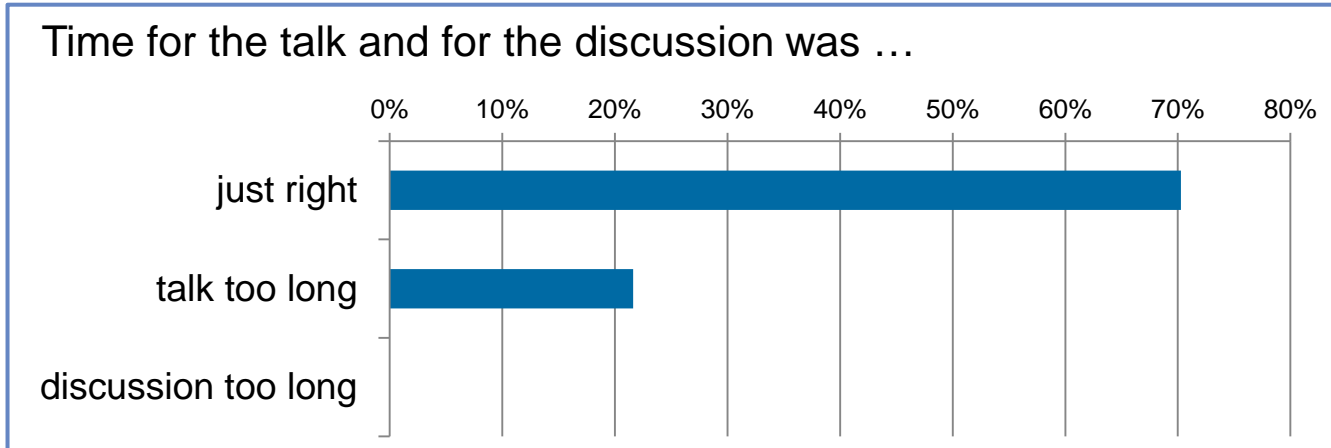
### Lessons learned (2): Background Visitors



# Active Information – a Field Report

## Information Measures: Lecture Evening with Discussion

### Lessons learned (3): Event Format

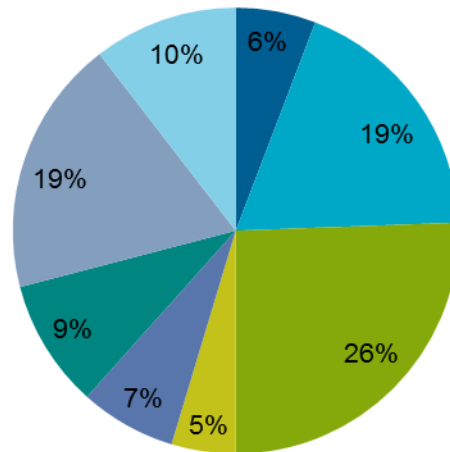


# Active Information – a Field Report

## Information Measures: Lecture Evening with Discussion

### Lessons learned (4): Content I

I expected to hear more about the subject:



- types and quantities, generation of waste
- disposal concept
- alternatives to disposal
- history of site selection
- Asse/Gorleben/Konrad/Morsleben
- repository site selection act and public participation
- current status
- other

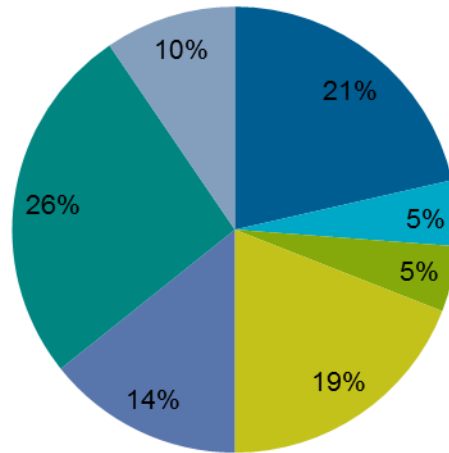


# Active Information – a Field Report

## Information Measures: Lecture Evening with Discussion

### Lessons learned (5): Content II

This subject was too extensively described:



- types and quantities, generation of waste
- disposal concept
- alternatives to disposal
- history of site selection
- Asse/Gorleben/Konrad/Morsleben
- repository site selection act and public participation
- current status

# Active Information – a Field Report

## Information Measures: Lecture Evening with Discussion

### Summary Lessons learned:

- The number, age and gender of visitors varied strongly:  
Same lecture + different organization or event = broad range of people
- Most participants inform themselves only sporadic on a media level:  
The active offer for information and exchange raises interest.
- Our independent information offers and the confidence in the hosting institution supports an open debate.

# Active Information – a Field Report

## Information Measures: Teaching Material for young people

- It is offered to download free of charge (<https://www.oeko.de/forschung-beratung/themen/nukleartechnik-und-anlagensicherheit/endlagerstandortsuche-im-schulunterricht/>).
- It is prepared as a role play with substantial background information.
  - Students will become “experts” by studying a specific topic, e.g. host rock geology or nuclear legislation.
  - The different “experts” develop together criteria for siting a deep geologic repository and try to apply them on Germany.
- The teaching material was prepared in cooperation with UfU e.V.
- **Up-date 2017**



# Active Information – a Field Report

## Information Measures: Teaching Material for young people

- Consequence of this low-threshold offer → we get little response
- but some indications:
  - + Students were interested, curious and questioning.
  - + The message has been understood: it's a task for generations.
  - + The material is adjustable to the efforts of time, space and students.
  - + Interdisciplinary teaching: more positive than negative statements.
  - - General problem: Teachers have little time resources for developing a new subject outside the curriculum.
  - - A lot of paperwork (costs and practicability).
- One more topic: teach the teacher!

# Active Information – a Field Report

## Information Measures: Other Examples – young generation

- Expert dialogue at a book festival for young people
- Attending young people at disposal conferences in Loccum

### My own experience:

- Young people are interested and deal (mostly voluntarily) with the subject.
- It's easy to enter in discussion with young people.
- Important: Young people want to be taken seriously. They want to understand and have no interest in a technical jargon!
- But also: Less text and more multimedia would be nice.

# Active Information – a Field Report

## Conclusions

- Active information and exchange offers contribute to raise public awareness and interest of radioactive waste topics.
- Independence and confidence will support access and an open debate.
- The measurements should pay attention to gender, locality and generation.
- We expect an increasing demand when the site selection process improves.

# Thank you for your attention!

Do you have any questions?



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